**Short supply of coal to Gujarat**

2337. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of coal and coke to the Gujarat State is irregular;

(b) whether it is also a fact that at present Gujarat is being supplied merely 6 per cent against its annual requirement; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to mitigate the problem of poor and adulterated quality of coal supplied with reduced weight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (a) and (b) Requirements of coal are not being assessed State-wise. They are being assessed Sector-wise. Available information indicating the total quantities of coal supplied to Gujarat for the year 1991-92 and for the period April—December, 1992 as compared to the same period last year is given below:

(Fig. in '000 tonnes)

| Year | Total | Growth (%) |
|---|---|---|
| 1991-92 | 15181 | 3.59 |
| 1992-93 (April-December) | 11094 | 4.46 |
| 1991-92 (April-December) | 10620 | |

The above data indicates steady growth of coal despatches to Gujarat.

(c) Coal companies have already prepared an action plan for improve ing quality of despatches of non-coking coal. This action plan broadly aims at:

(i) Restoration and re-activation of idle CHP capacity by providing balancing facilities;

(ii) Expeditious completion of CHPs where construction work was left incomplete due to various reasons;

(iii) Undertaking a crash programme for installation of feeder breakers at locations where ROM coal is loaded; and

(iv) Construction of new CHPs at projects under implementation to take care of additional production capacity in the pipeline.

As regard shortages in weight, coal is despatched on FOR basis. Coal Companies are not responsible for shortage enroute. However, they are strengthening their organisation for ensuring 100 per cent weighment of coal despatched to consumers. Coal Consumers can also post their representatives to supervise loading of coal.

**Starting underground mining for getting good quality of coal**

2338. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Miniser of COAL be peased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to resort to need-oriented coal pro-

duction and start underground mining in place of open cast mining so that high quality of coal becomes available in large quantity;

(b) if so, the details of the proposol; and

(c) if not, the steps Government propose to take to increase he availability of good quality of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps being taken to increase the availability of good quality coal inter-alia include:

(i) Augmenting the capacity of coal handling and screening facilities to improve consistency of quality of coal despatches.

(ii) Reorganisation and development of some of the existing mines producing better grades of coal.

(iii) Opening of new mines.

(iv) Beneficiation of coal for eliminating extraneous materials to improve the overall quality.

**Expansion of operations of S.C.C.L.**

2339. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the operations of Singareni Collieries Company Limited; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The coal production from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is expected to increase from 20.58 million tonnes (1991-92) to 33.00 million tonnes in 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The target of 33.00 million tonnes is proposed to be achieved by production from existing mines, on-going projects and new projects; the break-up of which is proposed as under:—

| | Production (In million tonnes) |
|---|---|
| Existing mines | 16.32 |
| On-going projects | 16.93 |
| New Projects | 4.75 |
| TOTAL | 33.00 |

The followng major rojects of Singareni Collieries Company Limited are proposed to be taken up for implementation during the Eighth Plan period:—

| Project | Likely Capacity |
|---|---|
| (i) Medapalli Opencast | 1.25 m'y |
| (ii) Padmavathikhani Underground | 1.25 m y |
| (iii) Gauthamkhani Opencast | 2.00 m y |
| (iv) Manuguru Opencast-IV | 1.25 m'y |
| (v) Ramagudem Shaft Block-I | 1.80 m'y |
| (vi) Manuguru Shaft Block-I | 1.80 m'y |

The achievement of coal production target of 33.00 million tonnes by SCCL would, however, depend on availability of resources of Rs. 1850 crores (including Rs. 850 crores proposed as Andhra Pradesh State Goverment's share of equity) at 1991-92 prices during the Eighth Plan period.